

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, and 20-27 were pending and under consideration in the above-identified application and were rejected. Claims 1-16 and 19 were cancelled previously. With this Amendment, no claims have been amended. Claims 26 and 27 have been cancelled. Accordingly, only claims 17, 18, and 20-35 are at issue.

I. Double Patenting Rejection of Claims

Claims 17, 18 and 20-27 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24-26, and 28-31 of co-pending Application No. 09/880,173. In response to this objection, Applicant submits herewith an appropriate Terminal Disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the May 29, 2008 Office Action, claims 17, 18, and 20-25 contain allowable subject matter. As stated above, Applicant submits a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome any actual or provisional rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17, 18, and 20-25 are allowable over the cited art and are ready to proceed to issuance.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Spies* (U.S. Patent No. 6,055,314) in view of *Pitroda* (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,271). Without prejudice, and reserving the right to file a continuation application with claims consistent with the scope of claims 26 and 27, Applicant has cancelled claims 26 and 27 to allow claims 17, 18, and 20-25 to proceed to issuance, rendering this rejection moot.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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